



S. 3738
7-6-00

OUR CASE: ZL 0126

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ANDREAS WEILER

Serial No.: 09/248,812

Filed: February 11, 1999

SOFT TISSUE GRAFT FIXATION
DEVICE AND METHOD

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Mailed: June 22, 2000

Group: 3738

Examiner: M. Milano

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In response to the Office Action of March 27, 2000, Applicant hereby replies as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1, 2 and 4, without prejudice.

Please amend claims 3, 5 through 13 to read as follows:

-- 1. (Amended) A surgical implant [according to claim 4] comprising:

a bioabsorbable spherical member having an axial throughbore, said spherical member having an external spherical surface wherein said surface is, adjacent each end of said throughbore, recessed relative to the non-adjacent spherical surface, and wherein said recess comprises a rectangular surface symmetrically situated about said throughbore, said rectangular surface smoothly blending at two opposing ends into said spherical surface and at the other two opposing ends into a surface extending between said rectangular surface and said spherical surface. --

-- 2. 3. (Amended) A surgical implant according to claim [1] wherein said throughbore has a first predetermined diameter at one end thereof and a second

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